For Wisconsin State Journal - last page corrected

Harold Weisberg, *Case Open. The Omissions, Distortions and Falsifications of Case Closed.* New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc., 1994. Pp. xx, 176, $11.95.

The eighty-one year old master of the John Kennedy assassination devastatingly exposes the hoax perpetrated by Gerald Posner's *Case Closed*, published last year by Random House, that claimed Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed JFK. For commercial purposes the publisher extracted *Case Open* from a 200,000 word manuscript thickly studded with references that I had read as a peer reviewer. This puts me in a better position to judge and understand the depth and scope of this commercial exploitation of the great tragedy of JFK's death and the effort of American media opposed to writing on the assassination to promote Posner's dishonest book.

Weisberg rests his critique on the documentary record and his magisterial knowledge of it. He does not theorize. In the process of demolishing Posner he effectively demonstrates Oswald had no relationship to the crime.

One hundred percent of the witness testimony and physical evidence excludes Oswald from carrying the rifle to work. If he did not he could not have killed JFK. Posner simply chops out of his account anything that does not conform to his preset conclusion that he did. For example, Jack Dougherty is the only person who saw Oswald enter the building. Under oath he twice said Oswald carried no rifle. Posner knew this but omitted it. The rifle was heavily oiled. The paper sack on the sixth floor said to have wrapped the rifle had no oil stains, which is an impossibility. Although he clearly understood this Posner eliminates the rifle's oil and its implications.

Posner often substitutes faked reconstructions for a lack of facts. Within a minute and one-half of the assassination a policeman and an official met Oswald at the second floor Coke machine. To get Oswald down from the sixth

floor in time to meet the two Posner has him run kitty-corner from the alleged assassin's window to the rear stairway and down, in passing "toss" his rifle into the midst of many boxes. He prints a map.

Not true. Masses of boxes in the center made that quick pathway impossible and only a slow one around the walls possible as Weisberg proves by documents and shows that Posner knew about them but chose to render them invisible. He faked the map. The police found the rifle carefully hidden under heavy boxes, a feat alone requiring enough time to keep Oswald from the meeting, Posner simply ignores the evidence for this, although he also was aware of it. Witnesses, such as Carolyn Arnold, place Oswald on the first floor; Posner either selectively quotes and confuses their testimony or cuts them out.

The central component of Posner's book is his ludicrous assertion that ten year old Rosemary Willis, seen on the Zapruder film, halted because she had heard the sound from an early first shot that missed JFK. This enables Posner to override the official and impossible single-bullet theory contrived to explain the wounds by positing an earlier second magic bullet that in bumblebee flight nicked Jim Tague.

Weisberg demonstrates this new magic bullet is pure fabrication, without *any* evidence and in gross violation of physical laws. But what Posner willfully leaves out is key. Rosemary's sister, mother, and father stood close to the limousine. All said the first shot came later, hit JFK, and was from the *front.*

Weisberg shows that the computer simulation used by Posner to locate by a projected cone of inference that the shots were fired from the Depository and therefore by Oswald is based on information derived from conclusions not facts. The computer specialists fed into the machine false and misleading theorized data and of course got the only result possible.

The dishonesty is pervasive. Posner cites the testimony of Renatus Hartogs, the psychiatrist who examined Oswald the youthful truant. He says Hartogs detected an assassin in the making. Hartogs swore to the exact opposite. He protects the CIA by blatantly misrepresenting the testimony of KGB defector Yuri Nosenko. Nosenko said the Soviets considered Oswald an American sleeper agent and knew that he was a lousy shot. Posner does not tell the reader that the only witness to "Oswald shooting" did not testify to that. Whether by ignorance or design he omits that the FBI test of the curbstone bullet strike was brazenly made on the unexplained *paste patch* over the damage, which gave false findings.

I have never read a more solid expose. Major newspapers and television stations, magazines, book clubs, talk shows, and mindless reviewers showered Posner with obsequious praise and have enabled his corruption to gain an audience. America's fairness doctrine would hold that they now report Weisberg's scholarly findings so citizens might compare and draw a conclusion on whether Random House and Posner savaged our profound national tragedy. Will they?

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